



Board of Supervisors Meeting  
Wednesday March 16, 2022

### Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday March 16, 2022 in the Conference Room of the USDA Ag Center Building located at 809 8th Street SE, Detroit Lakes, MN.

Those present were Supervisors Travis Schauer, Curt Ballard, Eugene Pavelko and Michelle Andresen. Staff members include District Administrator Bryan Malone, Office Manager Deana Westberg, District Technician Ed Clem, NRCS District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, East Otter Tail SWCD Irrigation/Nutrient Management Specialist Nathan Wiese and Becker County Commissioner Barry Nelson.

Call to Order Chairman Pavelko called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

#### Agenda and Consent Agenda Items

February 16, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes; Employee Program Reports)

**Motion (Schauer, Andresen) to approve the February meeting minutes and employee program reports. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.**

**Motion (Andresen, Schauer) to approve the Agenda and Consent Agenda. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.**

#### Financials

##### Treasurers Report and Bills for Approval

Malone reviewed the Treasurers Report and Bills for Approval

**Motion (Schauer, Ballard) to approve the February Treasurer's Report and March Bills for Approval. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.**

##### Billing Rate

Malone reviewed the 2022 Billing Rate.

**Motion (Schauer, Ballard) to approve the 2022 Billing Rate. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.**

##### Supervisor's Quarterly Expenses & Special Meetings

1st Quarter Supervisor's Quarterly expenses and Special Meetings reviewed and approved.

**Motion (Schauer, Andresen) to approve the Supervisor's Quarterly Expenses & Special Meetings. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.**

#### Reports

District Administrator Bryan Malone reported:

- 1W1P
  - Presented (along with Guetter-PRWD and Vareberg-P&Z) an update to the Otter Tail River 1W1P planning process to the Becker County Commissioners
  - Attended the second of three Otter Tail 1W1P Landscape Stewardship Planning sessions and the Technical Advisory Committee meeting
  - The Crow Wing River Watershed Group met and consensus was to apply for 1W1P funding to begin planning efforts starting in 2023
  - The Wild Rice Steering Committee met to discuss funding status and begin planning for the next round of funding available in July.



- Ag Landowner Forum – held last forum in Lake Park on February 23<sup>rd</sup> to talk about carbon credits, soil health and cost-share opportunities through the 1W1P funding
- Projects
  - Met with Pelican River Watershed District about possible projects along Campbell Creek to include in the 319 grant plan.
  - Met with Becker County staff regarding the VFW shelter at Dunton Locks to look at stormwater management project possibilities.
- Clean Water Fund Grants
  - Completed the “Future of Farming in Becker County” work plan in elink and it was approved.
  - Waiting for a completed grant agreement to begin working on it.
  - New grant application opportunity for Water Storage due by April 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Meetings and Other
  - Attended the NACDE meeting.
  - MASWCD asked if the TSA1 would serve as Grant Administrator for their PRAP grant for SWCD Essential Services Analysis. We (TSA1) will reimburse MASWCD their grant funds and do the elink reporting.
- Personnel – Met with Marsha to review the Ag Inspector position description and posted the opening until April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Training
  - Assisted the Area 1 Technical Training Team plan a session called “Grassroots: Building a Local Soil Health program”
  - Three SWCD staff shared their experiences with developing a successful soil health program and all SWCD’s provided input on how their districts were doing.
  - TSA1 GIS Administrator provided training on the new GIS release of ArcPro.
- TSA
  - Engineer Technician Haverland is back to full time now.
  - Met with Doug Thomas, HEI to revise the Phase II structure and governance analysis proposal.
  - March 8<sup>th</sup> board meeting.
  - Presented to the Area 3 TSA regarding our PRAP workload analysis.

### **Open Forum**

Discussion on any available buildings in Detroit Lakes for possible shop space.

### **Local Water Management**

Resolution to Apply for BWSR 1W1P (Planning) Grant in Crow Wing River Watershed

- Resolution to support Crow Wing River One Watershed, One Plan project in Becker County
- That Becker SWCD welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with the counties and SWCDs within the Crow Wing River (7) watershed-scale planning efforts in the future; and
- That Becker SWCD supports an application to the BWSR for a planning grant to develop a comprehensive watershed management plan.

**Motion (Ballard, Andresen) to approve the Crow Wing River Watershed Planning Grant Application.**

**Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.**

### **TSA Reorganization**

At the last TSA Board meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup>, the 9 SWCDs in the North proposed to hire an engineer and technician as TSA employees. The 7 South SWCDs opted to have WOT SWCD hire a technician. This was approved by the Board. The Board also approved to go forward with Phase II of the PRAP study to tackle the governance portion.

### **County Ag Inspector**

Position Announcement and Planning

- CAI position advertised on Indeed - Statewide, Becker SWCD Facebook site, Becker County Web site, MASWCD and MACDE sites.
- April 1<sup>st</sup> closing date



- Plan to hire and start by May 1st
- Marsha Watland plans to be done fulltime May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 and part time December 31, 2022.

### **MDH Groundwater Grant**

Irrigation/Nutrient Management Specialist Nathan Wiese – East Otter Tail SWCD explained the Groundwater Protection Initiative Grant which is a collaboration of five counties including Becker County.

- Showed a map of pollution sensitivity ranges from West to East
- Discussed contaminants of concern and actions
- Map of final township testing results
- Strait River Groundwater Area resources are at risk of overuse and degraded quality
- Des Moines Till – glacier left behind sediment that contains arsenic
- Wells are being tested
- SWCD Guided Programs:
  - RCPP
  - Irrigation Technical Grant
  - Nutrient Management Initiative
  - MN Ag Weather Network

### **Ag in the Classroom**

Donation request of \$150.00 for 2022 Ag in the Classroom in Detroit Lakes.

**Motion (Ballard, Schauer) to approve the Ag in the Classroom Donation as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.**

### **Supervisor's Retreat Recap/Follow Up**

Consensus is to keep the yearly Supervisor Retreat on the same day as the regular monthly board meeting.

### **Civil Rights Responsibilities for Partners**

Ed Musielewicz, NRCS reviewed the Civil Rights Responsibilities for Partners Checklist and the Board Membership Responsibilities.

- The MOA (Memorandum of Agreement) between the NRCS and the Board is going on 75 years, developed July of 1948.
- Posters are hung up appropriately in the building.
- Affirmation of review was signed by Board Members and Ed Musielewicz, NRCS.

### **Local Work Group**

Information on the priorities for Fiscal Year 2023. The LWG process has been suggested to change by the 5 SWCDs in this NRCS Team from previous years. Instead of each SWCD in the NRCS Team having their own meeting and then the results combined by the Team Lead, the SWCDs in the NRCS Team area will meet as a group to determine resource concerns. Recommendation for 1 Manager and 1 Supervisor from each district to attend the meeting in Fergus Falls to review the resource concerns from their area.

Decision to table which supervisor will attend until next meeting.

### **Equipment**

Ed Clem reported on his recent visit with Clay SWCD to check out their rental equipment.

- No-Till Drills
  - John Deere 1590 15' with a legume box new price of \$73,000
  - Great Plains 15' 3pt Native Grass new list price of \$41,221 and with hitch and extras \$45,000
- Tiller
  - Maschio B230 8' wide working width-online price (assembly required) \$4,300
  - New from Illinois \$11,000
- Tractor
  - John Deere 6215 210hp new list price \$268,000
  - Used price w/ 225 hours \$205,000
  - Used John Deere 5100E 100 hp in Hawley \$67,000

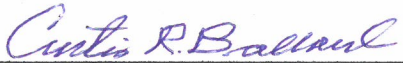


- Trailer for hauling equipment
  - Used 35' Goose neck
  - 40' prices range used \$10,000 - \$15,000
- Truck
  - Ford F550 Diesel
  - \$20,000 used - \$60,000 new
- Tree Planter
  - Custom planter built by Walter Welding & Manufacturing
  - Guessing \$8,000 - \$9,000 new now
- Fabric/Matting Machine
  - Custom Machine built by Arena Welding & Mfg
  - Guessing \$9,000 - \$10,000 new now
  - Including a Cherry Picker \$12,000 - \$13,000

The Board advised the staff to continue researching equipment focusing on a 10-12' drill, weed barrier fabric machine, and tractor.

**Adjourn**

Seeing no further business, Chairman Pavelko adjourned the meeting at 10:50 am.



Board Secretary

04-20-22

Date



District Administrator

4/20/2022

Date

